

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /126 W

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R 130325Z JUL 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9093

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 2783

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, AS, NZ, UK, XC

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN ANZUK

CINCPAC FOR POLLAD

1. FOLLOWING DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD'S DETAILED DESCRIPTION JULY 4 OF PLANNED WITHDRAWAL AUSTRALIAN FORCES FROM SINGAPORE, LOCAL ANZUK SPOKESMAN JULY 10 REITERATED AUSTRALIAN PHASE OUT AND SAID THAT AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE 2500 BRITISH AND 1200 NEW ZEALAND TROOPS WILL REMAIN. DISCUSSIONS WILL SOON BEGIN BETWEEN BRITAIN AND NEW ZEALAND ON HOW BEST TO REORGANIZE AND ADMINISTER THE REMAINING FORCES, INCLUDING FINDING A NEW NAME FOR THE ORGANIZATION.

2. ON JULY 12 FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM WAS QUERIED ON PARLIAMENT REGARDING GOS VIEW OF ANZUK. HE REPLIED

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THAT ANZUK DEFENSE PACT WOULD STILL MAKE USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. QUOTE THE AUSTRALIAN DECISION WILL AFFECT THE PRESET FIVE POWER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT, BUT THE USEFULNESS OF DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT, REMAINS BECAUSE OF THE CONTRIBUTION THAT OTHER PARTNERS WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE. UNQUOTE. REMINDING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THAT THE BRITISH WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN FORCES AT THEIR PRESENT LEVEL AND THAT PRIME MINISTER KIRK HAD REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO KEEP TROOPS IN SINGAPORE AS LONG AS THEY WERE WELCOME HERE, RAJARATNAM SAID QUOTE THIS BEING THE CASE, THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE FIVE POWER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT CAN MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION. UNQUOTE.

3. RESPONDING TO ANOTHER QUESTION REGARDING THE ALLEGED AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS "SPY UNIT," THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT THE GOS HAD NOT CONSIDERED THE UNIT AN ESPIONAGE GROUP AND ADDED THAT IT WAS NORMAL PRACTICE FOR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS OF ALL COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN RADIO INTELLIGENCE UNITS TO SERVE THEIR DEFENSE NEEDS. THE GOS DID NOT CONSIDER THE UNIT AS HAVING BEEN SET UP TO UNDERMINE OR SUBJECT SINGAPORE OR ITS NEIGHBORS. QUOTE. IN VIEW OF THIS, I SEE NO GROUND FOR CONCERN THAT OUR NONALIGNED POLICY HAS BEEN THREATENED IN ANY WAY. UNQUOTE. CRONK

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